

CROMWELL LIBRARY COMMISSION
Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.
Town Hall – Room 219

Special Meeting

Present: Chairman Al Dickerson, Barbara Grotheer, Margaret Colella, Marie Roberto, Joe Marino, Martha Rennie, Kathy Newton

Also Present: Eileen Branciforte, Gerald Seagrave

1. Call to Order--The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Chairman Al Dickerson.
2. Roll Call and Introductions (New Appointment)--The Commission welcomed new member, Kathy Newton. The presence of the above members was noted.
3. Approval of Agenda—*Marie Roberto moved to approve the April 20, 2010 Agenda. Seconded by Martha Rennie. In favor: Al Dickerson, Barbara Grotheer, Margaret Colella, Marie Roberto, Joe Marino, Martha Rennie, Kathy Newton.*
4. Approval of Revised March 8, 2010 Meeting Minutes—*Marie Roberto moved to approve the Revised March 8, 2010 Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Margaret Colella. In favor: Al Dickerson, Barbara Grotheer, Margaret Colella, Marie Roberto, Joe Marino, Martha Rennie. Abstained: Kathy Newton.*
5. Tour of the Library (followed after Item #9 Announcements).
6. Reports
 - a. Chairman—Chairman Al Dickerson noted nothing to report but thanked the Commission members for their efforts in the referendum.
 - b. Library Director—Eileen distributed the March 2010 Library Director's Report. Painting of the Library will start tomorrow. The Summer Reading Program theme will be a water theme – “Make A Splash With Books”. *Marie Roberto then moved to accept the March 2010 Library Director's Report. Seconded by Barbara Grotheer. In favor: Al Dickerson, Barbara Grotheer, Margaret Colella, Marie Roberto, Joe Marino, Martha Rennie, Kathy Newton.*

- c. Finance Report—Eileen distributed the March 2010 Library Finance Report. She noted the DSL circuits are now installed, the need to improve computers and wiring. The State Grant is pretty well spent (will be spent out by the end of June).

7. Old Business

- a. Library Expansion Referendum—Discussion

Barbara Grotheer distributed a list of Comments on the Referendum held April 8, 2010 to Commission members. Highlights were that it appeared the entire project was being bonded (\$3.5M), not \$2.5M with \$1M of a State Grant. That was not reflected in the question. Another noted comment was to keep the Library in the public eye, to build support for the Library, to branch out to organizations and community friends. She thanked the Commission members and supporters of the Library's Expansion project and their efforts in the referendum.

Martha Rennie brought up improving the Library website, having a link from the home page to explain the Library's needs, and keeping it updated. Eileen stated links that can be put on the website are limited. Eileen invited Martha's husband, Eric, to attend a meeting with her with the webmaster.

Marie Roberto commented on going forward regarding the next referendum. To focus on two issues: 1. Would like to hear from the First Selectman or the Bonding Attorney regarding the wording on the past referendum question; and, 2. Would like to know the timing, when we can go to a referendum again. The need to plan adequately.

Barbara Grotheer would like to see some kind of commitment from the Town, a time frame to work out. Facing the fact of losing a \$1M Grant.

Kathy Newton noted the need to get the word out, more publicity.

Al Dickerson suggested that Commission members e-mail him with questions they would like the First Selectman to address. He will then draft up these suggestions for the next meeting.

Martha Rennie questioned if there was a certain amount of time when a referendum is announced to the time of the referendum.

Eileen added having a call list, an e-mail list; i.e., Cromwell Juniors, the Knit Club, etc.

8. New Business

- a. 2010-2011 Fiscal Budget—No cuts from the Board of Finance meeting held last night. There will be a Town Meeting on May 3rd. Budget referendum to follow May 11th.

9. Announcements

Eileen and Gerald Seagrave attended the Connecticut Library Association conference held at the Mohegan Sun.

The Tour of the Library then followed. All Town Hall employees now share the Staff Lounge. Since more space is needed for large print books, shifting fiction around to accommodate this need. Putting CD's on spinner racks. There are seven public computers, a State database. The corner room near the Historical Room is used a lot for literacy volunteers, etc. The Historical Room is featuring a Freedom Quilt. Other areas of the Library were pointed out—young adult area, children's area, display cases, etc.

10. Adjournment—After the Library Tour, *Barbara Grotheer moved to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. Seconded by Kathy Newton. In favor: Al Dickerson, Barbara Grotheer, Margaret Colella, Maries Roberto, Joe Marino, Martha Rennie, Kathy Newton.*

Respectfully submitted,

Linda K. Sellew
Library Commission Clerk